DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELA): (a) to (d) The modalities of extending the coverage of human rights in the cirriculum for school and higher education have recently been discussed with the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) and it was felt that the NCERT and UGC should work on the development of material for the curricula for school and higher education respectively. The NCERT and the UGC have been addressed accordingly.

The NCERT which is responsible for framing the national pattern of school curriculum, has not developed any separate material on "Consumer Rights and Education". However, some ideas having linkage to consumer rights have already been included in the social sciences textbooks of the NCERT. In so far as higher education is concerned, it has been proposed by the UGC committee on 'Curriculum Development in Law' to include an optional paper on consumer justice in the revised law curriculum. The report has been circulated in the university system for consideration by individual universities in consultation with their board of studies, academic council etc. The responsibility of designing curriculum for higher education sector solely rests with the Universities.

Shortage of funds for Science Departments of Universities

6092. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Science Department of most of the Universities in the country are short of funds which is adversely affecting the Science education in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Programme to curb infanticide in Tamil Nadu

6093. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDEY; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme that was brought by the Tamil Nadu Government to curb infanticide failed to take off and there are large-scale female infanticides taking place in the southern part of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking, considering it as a serious social and human problem, being faced by the people of Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The data made available by the State Government of Tamil Nadu indicates that there is a significant decrease in the incidence of female infanticide in some areas of Madurai district in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of woman and girl childre. Further, advocacy attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl children so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness in various issues relating to girl children. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000AD) of the